

MAR 13 2015

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND
NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THE AIRPORTS DIVISION AND HARBORS
DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO ESTABLISH
AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS THE THREAT OF AN OUTBREAK
OF CHIKUNGUNYA VIRUS IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is an isolated island state in the Pacific
2 Ocean; and

3
4 WHEREAS, historically Hawaii has been geographically
5 vulnerable to viruses and infectious diseases, such as dengue
6 fever, leprosy, and leptospirosis; and

7
8 WHEREAS, the chikungunya virus is transmitted by the bite
9 of an infected mosquito of mostly the *Aedes aegypti* or *Aedes*
10 *albopictus* species; and

11
12 WHEREAS, Hawaii is one of the first known locations of an
13 invasion by *Aedes aegypti*; and

14
15 WHEREAS, Hawaii officials had previously considered *Aedes*
16 *aegypti* to be nonexistent in Hawaii by 1949, but the Department
17 of Health discovered *Aedis aegypti* in mosquito traps set at the
18 Honolulu International Airport in 2012; and

19
20 WHEREAS, the chikungunya virus causes fever, headache,
21 nausea, and severe joint pain that can last for years; and

22
23 WHEREAS, there is no specific antiviral drug treatment or
24 commercial vaccine for the virus, and treatment is focused on
25 relieving symptoms through administration of antipyretics,
26 optimal analgesics, and constant rehydration; and

27
28 WHEREAS, the chikungunya virus has infected massive
29 portions of Tahiti; and
30



1 WHEREAS, Hawaii receives many thousands of visitors every
2 year from Tahiti, Tonga, American Samoa, and other Pacific
3 islands on which there are confirmed cases of the virus and
4 populations of the disease-carrying mosquito; and
5

6 WHEREAS, Hawaii has experienced a steady increase over the
7 past decade of confirmed cases of mosquito-borne diseases
8 transmitting dengue and yellow fever; and
9

10 WHEREAS, Hawaii has the hot and humid climate ideal for
11 mosquitoes; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the Sanitation Branch of the Department of Health
14 educates the public on basic disease preventative measures and
15 protects state infrastructure by designing and implementing
16 policies involving community sanitation and emergency response;
17 and
18

19 WHEREAS, the Vector Control Unit, a section of the
20 Sanitation Branch, regulates, controls, and eradicates disease-
21 carrying pests in the State, including mosquitoes; and
22

23 WHEREAS, the Vector Control Unit experienced a workforce
24 reduction in 2009 that resulted in a reduced staff of four
25 workers on Oahu, four on Kauai, two in Maui County, and two on
26 Hawaii Island; now, therefore,
27

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the
30 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
31 Health, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the
32 Airports Division and Harbors Division of the Department of
33 Transportation are strongly urged to establish an advisory
34 committee to analyze the current threat of chikungunya virus in
35 Hawaii; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the advisory committee be named
38 the Chikungunya Virus Advisory Committee; and
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the purpose of the Chikungunya
41 Virus Advisory Committee be to research and report to the
42 Legislature:



- (1) Internal administrative measures that would provide the Vector Control Unit with the necessary personnel, training, and resources to establish a long-term strategy to control the growth of invasive mosquito species and mosquito-borne diseases in Hawaii;
- (2) Public-private partnerships capable of resuming pest control services previously conducted by the Vector Control Unit, such as regular inspection and surveillance of confirmed cases of mosquito-borne viruses and inspection of properties that may host infected or live-breeding mosquitoes;
- (3) Cost-effective and practical methods by which to educate the general public and incoming visitors on the common causes, symptoms, and preventative methods of chikungunya virus;
- (4) Specific strategies to coordinate state and Vector Control Unit actions to undertake comprehensive surveillance, inspection, and treatment of individuals infected by a mosquito-borne virus and properties identified as sites commonly inhabited by live-breeding mosquitoes; and
- (5) Practical and cost-effective emergency policies that would guide state administration of health care services statewide, with particular focus on providing health care services promptly to communities located in rural areas, following an outbreak of chikungunya virus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chikungunya Virus Advisory Committee consist of the following members:

- (1) One representative of the Vector Control Unit;
- (2) One representative of the Sanitation Branch of the Department of Health;
- (3) One representative of the Department of Health;



S.C.R. NO. 87

(4) One representative of the Department of Land and Natural Resources;

(5) One representative of the Department of Transportation Airports Division; and

(6) One representative of the Department of Transportation Harbors Division; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Chikungunya Virus Advisory Committee select a chairperson from among themselves, and the chairperson is requested to convene meetings; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the Chikungunya Virus Advisory Committee serve without compensation but be reimbursed for expenses necessary for the performance of their duties; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chikungunya Virus Advisory Committee submit its written findings and recommendations to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chikungunya Virus Advisory Committee cease to exist on June 30, 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director of Health, Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and Director of Transportation.

OFFERED BY:


Johann Chun Aalstead

